

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated June 16, 2003, the Examiner states that Claims 1-29 are pending, Claims 1-29 are rejected and Claims 22-29 are withdrawn from consideration. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is objected to as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 7. The Applicant has cancelled Claim 7, and those claims dependent thereon, to overcome the objection.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the rejection states that "It is unclear if a film is over a substrate with particles over the film or if there are just particles on a substrate."

The Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the features of Claim 2. Amended Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the polymer electrolyte film is formed on a surface of the transparent substrate, and the fine particles are adhered to the polymer electrolyte film.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7-9, 14-15 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 09-222503 (Yamada). Claims 1-2, 7-9, 14-15 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,919,555 (Yasuda). Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yasuda in view of U.S. 6,106,948 (Wang). Claims 5-6, 11-13 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamada in view of U.S. 6,383,620 (Aoyama et al.). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections in view of the amended claims.

As described in the amended Claim 1, the antireflection film of the present invention is novel in that a transparent substrate and a fine particle layer are allowed to adhere to each other through an electrolyte film. The adhesion is

achieved by at least an electrostatic interaction of fine particles and the polymer electrolyte film.

The rejection points out that "a high-refractive index layer" described in Yamada and the electrolyte film of the present invention is almost the same. However, Yamada neither discloses nor suggests that the high-refractive index layer has an ionic charge. Therefore, the high-refractive index layer of Yamada and the electrolyte film of the present invention are completely different.

Accordingly, the Applicant considers that the invention described in amended Claim 1 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Yamada.

Yasuda teaches that "an antistatic layer" can be provided as an intermediate layer between a substrate and particles (see col. 12, lines 46-48). By contrast, a transparent substrate and a fine particle layer, as claimed in the present application, are allowed to adhere to each other by at least an electrostatic interaction. Thus, Yasuda and the claimed present invention are totally different. Thus, the Applicant considers the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Yasuda to be overcome.

Furthermore, the present invention was made in order to achieve the object of providing a process for producing an antireflection film with superior manufacturing efficiency by improving the film-forming rate in the fine particle layer. However, neither Wang (USPN 6,106,948) nor Yasuda considered this. Therefore, the claimed present invention is not obvious from the combination of Wang and Yasuda, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is considered overcome.

With regard to the obviousness rejection by Yamada in view of Aoyama et al., the same arguments made with respect to Yamada apply again. Neither reference discloses a transparent substrate and a fine particle layer allowed to adhere to each other by at least an electrostatic interaction. Thus, the rejection is considered overcome.

The Applicant would also like to bring to the Examiner's attention that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on February 26, 2002, but an

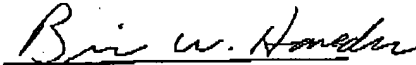
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initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 has not yet been returned. The Applicant requests that a copy of the initialed 1449 be forwarded with the next communication.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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